Vol. VIII. Numb. 96

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Observator *vindicated from the Charge of proposing a High-Commission-Court. Arguments for visiting and purging our Universities and Churches from Men of ill Principles against Church and State, in such a Manner as the Queen and Parliament shall think fit. The Necessity of such a Purge, according to Dr.* Sacheverell's *own Sermon. He and his Faction damn* Athanasius *the Author of our Creed, our Reformers and Martyrs, Queen* Elizabeth, *King* James, *King* Charles *the Ist*, &c.

From Wednesday, December 28. to Saturday, December 31. 1709.

Country-m. THE High-flyers make grievous Complaints against you, Master, and say you are for setting up a High-Commission-Court, because you talk'd of Visitors, to enquire into the Principles and Behaviour of our Universities and Clergy, in order to purge out such as are Enemies to our present happy Constitution.

Obj. Of all Men in the World, they have the least Reason to find Fault with such a Proposal, *Roger*, because it was their own Practice when they had the upper Hand. We know what Work their High-Commission-Courts and Star-Chamber made both in Church and State, when under the Direction and Influence of their Patriarch Arch-bishop *Laud*, and the rest of the High-Church Apostles. But I can assure you *Roger*, I neither said nor meant any such illegal Thing. I propos'd nothing but that a competent Number of fit Persons appointed by the Queen and Parliament might have a Power vested in them to enquire into the Principles and Behaviour of our Universities and Clergy, according to Law, and not to examine Men by Oaths *ex Officio*, to oblige them to swear against themselves, or to proceed against them without Proof by legal Witnesses, as the High-Church-Commission did, contrary to *Magna Charta*, and the known Laws of the Land, or to turn out Men for not complying with arbitrary *Mandamus*'s from the Court, as was practis'd by the last High-Church-Commission in the Reign of the late King *James*. My Meaning was, that as Queen *Elizabeth* publish'd Injunctions to inform the Clergy of their Duty, according to Law, and to regulate the Bishops in the Visitation of their Clergy, some such Thing should be practis'd now, by the joint Authority of Queen and Parliament, to avoid all Suspicions of an arbitrary and illegal Power.

Country-m. But where's the Necessity of such Visitations, Master? Han't the Bishops a Power to visit their Clergy themselves, without any such new Commission, and to call such of them to an Account, whose Principles and Practices are contrary to our Constitution in Church and State?

Obj. I dispute no Power that our Laws have vested in the Bishops, *Roger*, and doubt not but some of 'em may do a great deal more towards reforming Abuses, than they do; for we know they are not all of a Piece; but you know, as well as I, how the Lord Arch-bishop of *Canterbury*, and others of our Bishops, who are Men of true *English* Principles, and cordial Friends to her Majesty's Title, and the Protestant Succession, are treated by too many of their inferior Clergy; how their Persons are revil'd, their Principles run down, and how their Authority has been disputed by the lower House of Convocation; so that those worthy Prelates are not able to do what they would do.

Country-m. I know that very well, Master. He must be an absolute Stranger to Conversation, that does not hear them every Day rail'd upon as Betrayers of the Church, and false Brethren to the State, as Dr. *Sacheverell* was pleas'd to call them from the Pulpit in the Cathedral-Church of our chief City.

Obj. Well then, *Roger*, and don't you think it necessary, that the Authority of those worthy Persons should be supported by that of the Queen and Parliament, and that it would be a good Way to effect this to have Persons of known Zeal and Capacity join'd with them in Commission, to visit our Universities and Clergy, that the Odium might not lie upon our Revolution-Bishops alone, who have already forfeited the good Graces of so many of our University-men and Clergy, that have arraign'd them publickly to the World as Schismaticks and Intruders, in whose Communion there's no Possibility of Salvation? They that have read Mr. *Dodwell's Parænesis*, and other Pieces of that Sort, can be no Strangers to this; and the mischievous Consequences of it are plain: The Nonjurants are emboldened by this Means to set up Jacobite Conventicles thro' the whole Island, to debauch the People's Principles both in Religion and Politicks. By this Means also those true false Brethren, our High-Church Bigots, who have the Latitude to swear to the Queen as Sovereign *de facto* and to the Articles of our Church, as Articles of Peace, but not of their own Faith, are emboldened openly to attack our Constitution both in Church and State from the Pulpit and Press; and in Concert with them, Mr. *Lesly* and Mr. *Stacy*, profess'd Nonjurants, set up for pretended Advocates of the Church and Monarchy, in their *Rehearsal* and *Rehearsal Revis'd*, which were applauded as unanswerable by too many of our Clergy; so that the Poyson spread to the raising of such Ferments, and the propagating of such uncharitable Principles among us, as are a Scandal to the Nation, and the whole Protestant World. Nay, you see they have proceeded farther by their *Regale and Pontificate*, &c. to propose a Reconciliation with *Rome*, and to begin it by a Correspondence betwixt our Convocations, and those of the *Gallican* Church, without Leave of the State, contrary to the known Laws of the Land, by which our Convocation can do nothing without the Sovereign's Commission.

Country-m. All that's very plain, Master, tho' I think nothing could be more dishonourable to our Church, than to propose a Correspondence betwixt her and that of *France*, which has the Blood of so many Millions of Protestants to answer for, as they have destroy'd since the Reformation, by Persecutions, Massacres, Wars, &c. and this Proposal coming from a profess'd Nonjurant, who had also the Confidence in his *Rehearsals* to undermine the Doctrine of our Church, by making our Ministers sacrificing Priests, which is plain *Popish*, is Mad-Mens; and by condemning our Laws, the Injunctions and Visitation-Articles of our Kings, Queens, and Bishops, that order all Monuments of Idolatry to be destroy'd, which that high-flying Advocate call'd by the Name of Sacrilege, and I don't know what. All these Things consider'd, Master, I wonder that our Convocation never pass'd a Censure upon those Books and Papers, but much more that so many of our Clergy and University-men did buy and applaud them.

Obj. Let them answer for that, *Roger*. But all

this shews plainly enough, that both our Church and State are actually in Danger from Men of that Kidney, tho' they would falsly allarm the Nation, as if she were in Danger from others, who are for keeping her up to her legal Constitution, but for raising her no higher than is consistent with her real Security, her Majesty's Prerogative, and our known Laws. So that by this Time, *Roger*, I hope you are satisfy'd, that my Proposal of a Visitation of our Universities and Clergy in such a Manner as the Queen and Parliament shall think proper, was so far from having any Thing of a High-Commission Court, as practis'd in the arbitrary Reigns, that 'tis the quite contrary.

Country-m. You have fully convinc'd me of that, Master. But I should be glad to hear something farther of the Necessity of such Visitations.

Obj. Perhaps that may appear more plain, *Roger*, when Dr. *Sacheverell* comes to be try'd upon his Impeachment; but I think the Necessity of it evident from this, because there are so many Men who have the Education of our Youth, and the Direction of Peoples Consciences, of Principles quite contrary to our Constitution in Church and State, that 'tis not safe they should be suffer'd to continue in their Posts; for which I have Dr. *Sacheverell*'s own Authority, pag. 22 of his Sermon, where he owns it to be a *Maxim in Politicks, that all Governments are best supported by the same Methods and Councils upon which they are founded.* Now, *Roger*, we have an Act of Parliament, declaring, that our present Government is founded upon the 1st of *William* and *Mary*, Sess. 2. Cap. 2. declaring the Right and Liberty of the Subject, as it was settl'd by our Convention; and by that same Act, as I hinted before, the resisting and deposing of the late King *James*, is justify'd, and the Causes of it express'd. In that same Act the Nation is also authoriz'd to withdraw their Allegiance from a King or Queen that turns Papist, or marries a Papist; so that nothing in the World can be more plain from the Doctor's own Proposition, than that our present Government can never be supported by any other than the same Methods; but how that can be done, if our Church and Universities be not purg'd from Men of contrary Principles, let him and his Faction answer, if they can. They may as well say, that the best Way to preserve Sheep, is to commit them to the Guardianship of Wolves. And that our Church is as unsafe in such Hands, as our State, is plain from his Reflexions upon Arch-bishop *Grindal*, pag. 19. from his Charge upon our reforming Bishops, and others, as Apostates from their own Order, because they thought the Institution of Bishops as superior to Presbyters, not to be divine; nay, he and his Faction condemn *Athanasius*, the Author of the Creed, so solemnly enjoin'd to be repeated in our Churches, to the very Pit: then how can our Church be safe, while such Numbers of Men are suffer'd to continue in our Universities and Churches, as damn the Authors of our Reformation, and the Asserters of our Faith, to the Lake that burns with Fire and Brimstone? Can Popery and *French* Tyranny have better Advocates than those Men?

Country-m. But how does it appear, that they damn our Reformers, and *Athanasius*, the Author of the Creed, repeated in our Churches, Master?

Obj. I have told you already, that they have damn'd our Reformers, because of their Opinion about Episcopacy, *Roger*; and in them, all the reform'd Churches Abroad, as appears by their respective Confessions. But farther, they condemn our Reformers in the Point of resisting Princes; for every Body knows, that our Bishops and Convocations gave Money to Queen *Elizabeth*, to support the Protestants of *France*, *Scotland*, and *Holland*, that took Arms against their Sovereigns. King *James* and King *Charles* the Ist fall under the same Condemnation, for assisting the *German* and *French* Protestants against their Princes; and what is more, King *Charles* the Ist is condemn'd for saying in his Declaration from *Newmarket* in 1641. *That the Law was the Measure of his Power*, which is quite contrary to the Doctor's *unconditional Obedience*; the Opposers of which, and the Resisters of Princes on any Pretence whatever, he has damn'd without Repreve, pag. 12.

Country-m. 'Tis very hard indeed, Master, that he should make King *Charles* a Martyr on the 30th of *January*, and damn him on the 5th of *November*.

Obj. Let the High-Church account for their own Contradictions, *Roger*, if they can. Now I'll tell you how they damn *Athanasius*, the Author of our Creed; *Caralitanus*, Bishop of *Cagliari*, in *Sardinia*, about 357, wrote a Book against *Constantius* the Emperor, and sent it him, wherein he told his Imperial Majesty, that he deserv'd to be put to Death, according to the Command of God, *Deut* 13. for inviting Christians to idolize. *Caralitanus* was approv'd by Bishop *Athanasius*, and those of his Communion, who call'd his Proposition, *The Light of Truth, and the Doctrine of the true Faith, which the Holy Ghost had assisted him to understand.* Now, *Roger*, 'tis plain that *Athanasius*, the Author of our Creed, is damn'd by the High-Flyers without Mercy, for here's more than resisting a Tyrant; he condemns him to Death.

Country-m. Then God deliver me from the Religion of High-Church, Master; for I find they damn every Body, the Makers of our Creed and of our Articles, our Kings, Queens, Parliaments, Confessors, and Martyrs. The Pope needs not dart his Thunder from the *Vatican* against our Church and State, the High-flyers have sav'd him that Labour. I think, Master, you have fully prov'd the Necessity of purging Men of such pernicious Principles out of both Church and State. We must talk next Time of the State-Lottery propos'd, and of the Case of our Poor.

Advertisements.

☞ Whereas several malicious Advertisements have been lately inserted in the common News-papers, against a Book entitl'd, Merlinus Liberatus, with an Almanack printed by Allowance, for the Year 1710. by J. Partridge; and upon strict Enquiry after the chief Promoter of the said Advertisement, it appears to be a Person of high-flying Principles, excited to this Piece of Malice by the following Expressions in the said Merlinus Liberatus for the Month of March, viz. 'About the 11th of this Month a considerable Officer is pre-'ferr'd, and at the same Time an exemplary Church-man, 'but not a S----c-----, nor a Lesly. ☞ Note, the said Merlinus Liberatus, being writ upon Revolution-Principles, with Observations upon the Tyrannies of the late Reigns, was printed in October last, and is to be sold by B. Harris in Gracechurch-Street, London, and most Booksellers and Chap-men in City and Country, with the like Freedom and Safety as formerly, notwithstanding any Advertisement to the contrary. The Almanack being printed by the Company of Stationers own Allowance.

☞ The Navy Royal, or a Sea-Cook turn'd Projector, containing a few Thoughts about manning our Ships of War with the best of Sailors, without Violences, and in the most pleasing Manner, according to the fourth Article of a late Proposal, publish'd by our worthy Chaplain of her Majesty's Ship the Lyme. By Barnaby Slush, Cook of the said Ship. Price bd. 1 s. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row. Where may be had, the Wooden World dissected, by the same Author. Price bound 1 s.

☞ Mrs. Frances Shaftoe's Narrative, containing an Account of her being in Sir Theophilus Oglethorp's Family, where hearing many treasonable Things, and among others, that the pretended Prince of Wales was Sir Theophilus's Son, she was trick'd into France by Sir Theophilus's Daughter, and barbarously us'd, to make her turn Papist and Nun, in order to prevent a Discovery, but at last made her Escape to Switzerland, and from thence arriv'd in England in December 1706. Price 6 d. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row.

☞ Gentlemen, who have any Thing to communicate to the Author of this Paper, are desir'd to direct it to be left with B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row, for the Observator, Post pay'd. Where Advertisements are taken in.

LONDON, Printed: And sold by *B. Bragge* in *Pater-Noster-Row*. 1709.